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## Holiday Colors . . . . . For San Diego Gardens

By K. O. SESSIONS

San Diego city can make a more spectacular showing of bright flowering plants during the holiday season, December and January, than any other city in the United States excepting, possibly some in Florida.

These plants are self-registering thermometers of our climate and every home gardener should consider a generous planting to give color in abundance, not only for our own pleasure but for the many winter visitors from the U. S. in general and Europe also.

The Poinsettia is No. 1, the ever-blooming Crimson Lake Bougainvillea No. 2. The brick colored B. lateritia No. 3 and the newer variety B. Mrs. Praetorius No. 4. Our own native Toyon, the red berried shrub (Holly), No. 5, the fine red and orange berried Hawthorne, No. 6, and the vigorous berried Cotoneasters, No. 7, are the most showy plants and all are easily grown but the first four need a southern or eastern exposure for an evergreen background of shrubbery and the Bougainvilleas grow strong and high and develop bushy and spreading tops of strong color. On or near a tile roof they are very conspicuous. The native Christmas berry shrub will make an excellent hedge and the native wild Cherry gives the holly-like foliage to use with

the berries in making wreaths and garlands.

The Pyracantha or Hawthorns have a choice green foliage with their brilliant berries in large clusters. The Cotoneasters are strong growers with a greyish green foliage and drooping branches with abundant red berries along the whole stem. All of these flowers and berries last well as cut flowers for decorative use.

The winter blooming Strelitzia reginae is fast appearing more generously in our gardens as a very choice plant for color and so desirable as a cut flower for shipping to colder sections of California and the U. S. It flourishes in the open and blooms well when only four years old in our favorable climate.

The well known Camellias are winter bloomers and their very beautiful flowers with their rich foliage make them choice garden plants for very shady locations. One prominent grower lists 150 varieties. Sacramento is the Camellia city of California and has a fine Camellia show every February or March. Her very cool and moist climate allows them to flourish in the open very successfully and about the capitol buildings are very large specimen plants.

The modest but colorful Belleperone from Lower California is a

good ever blooming, red flowering low shrub and the Euphorbia splendens, the Crown of Thorns in pots in the patio bear their brilliant small red flowers generously in a sunny location.

The Bignonia Venusta vine produces a wealth of orange clustered flowers from November to February and is particularly brilliant and its climbing habit festoons its golden garlands into adjacent trees and along high balconies.

Pansies, Violas and California poppies and many bright annuals can be in good bloom late in December and all of January.

The Acacia Podolyriaefolia is in full bloom in November, lasting until February. Its rich yellow flower clusters with its soft grey foliage make it a very desirable small garden tree.

The climbing Syringa gives an abundance of fragrant white garlands during the winter and the Tecoma Queen of Sheba is in full bloom, with large clusters of fine pink flowers.

San Diego was the first city to pack and ship poinsettias as a cut flower successfully, and one holiday shipment to San Francisco was a carload of 5000 blooms. Shipping many sorts of flowers is now a growing business from Southern California to the eastward during the winter and early spring.

California Garden makes an ideal Christmas gift. Why not give subscriptions to your friends this year? Send the names to Mr. De Forrest Ward, Secretary, Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

# A Garden of Herbs . . . .

By FLORENCE A. PIERCE

A garden has been called a "lesson in faith" and the herb garden "a garden of sentiment." As the holiday season approaches, thought is turned to savories and seasonings, and we find quaint legends, regarding many of these plants.

Rosemary is of particular interest at Christmas and is mentioned by many an old-time writer. Spenser refers to it as "the cheerful Rosemary" and not only is it found in the kitchen garden, but was in use over arbors, and allowed to run at will. Rosemary "delights in sea spray" as indicated by its name (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and is one of the plants of old to thrive here at the coast. It is the herb of remembrance. Ophelia remarks: "There's rosemary—that's for remembrance." It was used profusely at weddings, and at Christmas was used among the holly, ivy and mistletoe, to bring happiness when used in the decorations. The leaves have long been used for flavoring, and today it is a favorite seasoning in Italian cooking.

Lavender, another old favorite, is the "spikenard" of the Bible, so called from its flower spikes. It belongs to the crow foot family.

The old spelling, lavendar, is from the Latin lavare, to wash. The Roman baths were perfumed with it. It was much used to scent linens in New England and in old England. In the garden its silvery gray foliage adds a pleasing note.

Mint was also used for the bath as well as for seasoning. Pliny of ancient Rome writes: "The smell of mint doth stir up the mind and taste to a greedy desire of meat." So mint sauce is no modern idea.

Camomile, of which a writer in 1588 said: "The more it is trodden and pressed down, the more it spreadeth; yet the violet, the oftener it is touched, the sooner it withereth and decayeth." It is called an emblem of patience. Camomile tea is an old country remedy for colds.

Mention of the violet recalls a

recipe for violet jelly, made as follows: "Cast a handful of fresh violets, minus stems, in a pint of boiling syrup. Cover and simmer one-half hour. Strain, add one-half cup of orange juice and gelatine to thicken."

Rue, the classic "herb of grace," is one of the ten great herbs, celebrated for its medicinal qualities. It is of "exceeding bitterness." It is mentioned in the Bible in St. Luke 11:42, and Ophelia has rue among her flowers, when she says: "Oh, you must wear your rue with a difference."

Sweet Basil, the royal herb, sacred to the temples of India, is tropical in its origin. It furnishes a spicy seasoning for the Italian cook. Also in Italy the rival suitor would hang a spring of Basil over his ear when going courting. Fresh or dried leaves and tender tops may be used in a wide range of foods; truly a versatile herb.

Fennel was used as a relish, and there was a belief that fennel "hath a wonderful property to clear the sight."

Thyme has long been used in seasoning. Fairies were said to be fond of it as we see in Shakespeare's song: "I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows." Bees are especially fond of it, and in the days when ladies embroidered scarfs for their knights to carry into battle, a bee in a spring of thyme was a favorite device — symbol of action and honor.

Monkshood-Aconite is among the medicinal herbs, its roots and foliage possessing a poison. The plant with its blue flower is of beauty enough to be welcome in any garden.

Digitalis, or fox glove, is associated in our minds with old fashioned gardens and is also a medicinal plant.

Nigella, Love in a Mist, may also claim a place in the herb garden. When the curious blue flowers have faded, a still more curious seed pod develops, crowned with a circlet of

five curly horns. When ripe they are filled with black seeds of a warm aromatic flavor. These seeds are sometimes used on cakes, or crushed and used as is cinnamon.

The list of herbs and legends is long. Angelica, for which an old English name was "Holy Ghost" because of the many mustic virtues attributed to it.

Hyssop, Anise, Caraway, Coriander, Cumin — these and many more have quaint stories and are mentioned often in the Bible: "For ye pay tithe of merit and arise and cummin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law and judgment and mercy and faith."

## SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

Nov. 1, 1938.

Dear Member:

For some years, as you probably know, the League has produced Christmas greeting cards featuring fine Redwood views. These have been offered for sale among our members, at a little over the cost of distribution.

We now have a stock of various types of cards, including reproductions of photographs and paintings.

So, this year, instead of producing a new 1938 card, we are arranging assortments of the varied cards on hand, and offering them in packages of 12, with matching envelopes.

The cards sold originally for 15c apiece, but in the "assorted dozens" they will be only \$1 per dozen, or less than 9c each.

If you wish some of these distinctive Christmas cards, please write us.

Sincerely,

Save-the-Redwoods League  
114 Sansome St. San Francisco

The Junior Chamber of Commerce in electing new officers reaffirms a pledge to cooperate in every way possible with all civic bodies. Might be a good thing for us to remember when we have a project in mind. Gerald Heilbron and Frank Meyer are on the conservation committee and Allen Perry and Henry Batchelder make up the park committee.

# The December Garden . . .

By WALTER BIRCH, Jr.

These mornings are somewhat crimp, but quite a few varieties of the hardier Annuals may be seeded at this time. Snapdragons, Stocks, Calendula, Candytuft, Calliopsis, Clarkias, Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisies, California Poppy, Dianthus or Pinks, Larkspur, Lupin, Mignonette, Nemesis, Pansy, Phlox Drummondii, Early Flowering Sweet Peas and any of the California Wild Flower Mixtures. Bedding Plants available at this time include: Carnation, Stocks, Snapdragon, Calendula, Scabiosa, Pentstemon, Gailardia, Cinnerarias, both the tall Stellata and the Dwarf Hybrids, Agatheia or Blue Daisy, Petunias, Pansies, Violets, Larkspur, Lobelia, Nierembergia or Dwarf Cup Flower that dandy little border plant, Nemesis, Schizanthus, Foxglove, Ageratum, English Daisies or Bellis, Salpiglossis and Canterbury Bells.

**Bulbs:** The Easter Lily Bulbs are available early this month, the other Lilies including Liliun Auratum, Tigrinum, Rubrum, Regale will not be ready till about the middle of the month. Of course one may still plant bulbs of Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Ranunculus, Gladiolus, Anemones, Scilla and the Giant Hybrid Amaryllis.

**Vegetables:** Carrots, Turnips, Beets, Cabbage, Lettuce, Radish, Peas, Endive, Mustard, Spinach, Parsnips, Onions either sets or seeds.

In applying the various spray materials much better results will be obtained if the spraying is done in the forenoon rather than later in the day as it is the action of the sun on these materials that really makes them work. We find that some gardeners have been waiting until evening to do their spraying so that the plants would not be burned and consequently have not gotten the proper action from the materials applied. The new Snail and Slug Baits are far superior to the old ones, this due to the new

killing agent which also acts as an attractant to these pests. This new material is used in both the New Snarol and Bug-Geta.

At last we have an animal manure that is put up in a manner that is easy to handle both for the Dealer and the person that actually applies it to the garden or lawn. This material is known as Bandini Steer Manure, is packed in heavy, clean paper bags and is free from weed seed, taken from steers fattened on cotton seed meal and hulls and kept on cement floors so that there is practically no foreign matter mixed in. This makes a splendid mulch for a new lawn or top dressing for an old one, is also excellent for use around flowers and shrubs making a good mulch as well as having real fertilizing value.

## Kate Sessions Honored

Miss Kate Sessions was honored recently by the officials of the Golden Gate International Exposition. On Nov. 26th ground breaking ceremonies for the big glass house were held and Miss Sessions made the trip north to assist in the rites. She and Miss Alice Eastwood of the Academy of Sciences were the honored guests among a group of prominent horticultural figures from up and down the coast.

To garden lovers the building of this huge glass structure will be one of the most interesting features of the Exposition and we shall hear more about it as the work progresses. Mr. Norvell Gillespie, Garden Editor of SUNSET and horticultural councillor for the S. F. Fair promises us a story for our January-February issue on Miss Sessions' part in the ground breaking ceremonies.

Harmony is the best French bedding Marigold. The center is golden orange—the outside reddish brown.

## MY ZINNIAS

A bed of zinnias, long I'd craved,  
So when my neighbor kind, had saved  
Some extra, special seed for me,  
'Twas planted with celerity.

In soil prepared to suit their need  
Painstakingly, I placed each seed  
In open ground where they'd derive  
The needed food, they'd surely thrive.

Soon there were tiny sprigs of green  
That later, could be plainly seen!  
More perfect plants some may have grown;  
But with more care were seeds ne'er sown!

And now, my dream was coming true,  
What gorgeous blooms almost in view!  
Those plants were thriving one and all,  
Really almost two inches tall!

Next morning every plant had vanished;  
All hope of lovely blooms was banished,  
My cherished plants—alas, a lack!  
Had furnished snails a midnight snack!!

—Ida E. McLean.

## December Meeting

The December meeting promises to be the usual interesting climax meeting of the year. The date is the third Tuesday of the month, the 20th, and everyone is urged to attend, for the Christmas party spirit will prevail as it has in years past.

Mrs. Arthur Shoven, wife of one of our directors, will be in charge of the program and she will demonstrate various Christmas decorations and show us how to make wreaths, etc. Plants will be given away to lucky number holders and other Christmas features should make this one of the best meetings of the year.

“Garden” Advertisers are reliable merchants and merit your support . . . patronize them.



## In the News

John G. Morley, San Diego's park director since Dec. 1, 1911, will retire Jan. 21. His genius along horticultural lines is credited with much of the famous park's appeal to visitors and this beauty spot created out of a sage brush waste will stand as a reminder of that genius.

Now Sen. Ed Fletcher suggests in a letter to the council that Mr. Morley, on his retirement, should receive some token of appreciation for his long years of service and for his splendid work of park development. The senator suggests that Mr. Morley be elected park superintendent emeritus, without pay, and that the city tender him use without charge for the remainder of his life of the residence in the park Mr. Morley now occupies.

\* \* \*

Senator Fletcher also informs the city council our city can expect a gift of 350 flowering cherry trees from Japan sometime early in December—a donation from the city of Yokosuka. The gesture is motivated by the hospitality shown Japanese officers and cadets of a training ship which paid us a visit last summer.

Mr. Morley will plant 50 in the park, 25 will go in at the Civic Center, 100 at State College and the rest in other sections. It will be remembered that the famous flowering cherry trees of Washington, D. C., were a gift of the municipality of Tokyo some 30 years ago. All plants in a Japanese garden mean something—the pine for posterity, the bamboo for faithfulness and so on. I'm wondering which ones in the official gardens stand for peace on earth, good will toward men.

\* \* \*

A group of dahlia growers recently organized a dahlia society in San Diego, known as the San Diego Dahlia Society. The president is R. Paul Comstock and Herman Lodge is vice-president, with Rose Marie Comstock as secretary-treasurer. No doubt, as the influence of this group is felt, we shall have even

finer dahlias displayed at our future fall shows.

Wouldn't it be fine if all these specialized organizations such as this one and the Rose Society and the Fuchsia Society and the Gladiolus Group, and the Poinsettia Promoters and all the garden clubs in San Diego county could be tied together into a loosely knit organization with a clearing house for information and with one official organ—say California Garden because of its established record—with various departments in it devoted to notes on the specialties and announcements for the various garden groups. What a magazine we could put out then with a little money for illustrations and a better talking point when selling our advertising.

\* \* \*

The tulip is the town flower of Holland, Mich., and the annual tulip festival in May attracts 500,000 visitors to the town. What an opportunity we have here to do something of the kind with the poinsettia. The flowers are in their prime just at the time when San Diego is the most attractive. Joy is in the air at this season of the year and what a joyous festival we could have with the poinsettia as the central theme. Pasadena and Portland built up their fame on the rose—and any section can grow roses—but who can boast of poinsettias 10 and 15 feet high growing out of doors?

\* \* \*

The Junior League's garden club will give its third annual Christmas decoration show Dec. 9 in the league building on 17th st. The club is bringing two interior art authorities, Miss Amy McDermid and Miss May Nichols of Pasadena, here Nov. 29 (about the time we go to press) to talk on new trends in Christmas arrangements. These two artists who own their own Amy-May studio in Pasadena and who put on a weed exhibit (reviewed last issue), each year have studied with artists and craftsmen in this county and in Europe. It will be interesting to see their influence upon the displays this year. Miss Alice Gould Klauber is heading all arrangements for the Christmas event.

## Tragedy of the Redwoods

The great Golden State of California has no asset — cultural, artistic, educational or scenic — of greater value and loveliness than its great stands of redwoods. More than any other single factor, these giant trees have called millions of visitors over the years from every land and clime. Trees that were old when the Founder of Christianity roamed the olive groves of Palestine stand vigilant guard along some of the most famous highways and sea coasts in the world — picturesque northern California.

Despite the reverence which millions hold for these giants of the forest, tragedy has not spared the great trees. Unmindful of the irreplaceable value of the great trees, the woodsman's axe has wrought tremendous havoc in almost every fine stand of California's redwoods. Today, mile after mile in numerous areas testify, by the stark nudity of the forests, the heavy toll taken.

Reforestation cannot recreate for many decades matured trees of the lasting beauty and size as have fallen, and still further threatened, by the saw-mills, which are steadily eating their way into the very heart of many of the finest stands of redwoods.

It is well, indeed, that the people of California have at last awakened to the real peril facing what remains of the once vast forests of these huge trees. Every Californian who cherishes these wonderful miracles of nature, and who wants them preserved, should support in every way possible the Save-the-Redwoods League's efforts to protect these great trees.—(from S. F. Argonaut, Oct. 21, 1938).

Experiments are being conducted to determine whether the oils of California flowers will justify launching perfume industries in the state.

S. D. Floral Association meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Bldg., Balboa Park, 7:30 p. m.

# Monkey Flowers for Your Garden

By FRANK F. GANDER, Natural History Museum

In Hortus, L. H. Bailey lists some twenty-two kinds of Monkey-flowers (genus *Mimulus*) which are known in cultivation, and of these several are among the thirty-two species which are native to Southern California. The Chilean species, *Mimulus luteus*, with its several forms, is perhaps best known as it is widely planted in lath houses and conservatories, but a number of our local species are worthy of extensive use in our yards and gardens.

Among the annuals, *M. brevipes* with its clear yellow, snapdragon-like flowers, and the smaller *M. Fremontii* with flowers in shades of rose and crimson are both listed in Hortus. *M. Bigelovii* of the Colorado Desert has reddish purple flowers and would probably do well in sandy soil. *M. moschatus*, *M. diffusus*, *M. Palmeri*, and several other small annuals have attractive flowers and might well repay efforts to grow them.

But it is among the perennials that we find those species which are best suited for use in this semi-arid land. Everyone knows the Red Bush Monkey-flower (*M. puniceus*) which makes such glorious splashes of color on our local canyon sides in spring and early summer, but not everyone knows that it easily can be grown in the yard. On page 3655 of the Curtis Botanical Magazine, this species is described as, "A very elegant shrub, flourishing in its native soil nearly the whole year . . . It cannot fail to prove a great ornament to our gardens." The flowers vary in size and color, ranging from brick-orange to deep, velvety red. As the plants grow from cuttings very readily, it is possible to secure any type desired. I have a large-flowered, deep red strain which blooms over the greater part of spring and summer.

The cream-colored Mountain Bush Monkey Flower (*M. longiflorus* var. *linearis*) does not object to being planted near sea level and blooms so profusely that each bush becomes a mass of lovely

flowers, often two or three feet in diameter. This form grows commonly through most of our hills and mountains, while a northern form (*M. longiflorus*) with more yellowish corolla and rich orange anthers occurs on Palomar and Hot Springs Mountains. Both of these are growing in my yard, and both are excellent for use in bouquets for they will last in fine shape for ten days or more. Orange-flowered hybrids between the red *puniceus* and the cream-colored *linearis* are not uncommon in some parts of this County. They are often quite similar to *M. auranticus* of central California which also does well here.

Rarest of the shrubby members of this group is *M. aridus* which is found in the boulder piles from Boulevard to Jacumba. It is low growing, the stems seldom reaching a length of one foot, and its fondness for growing in crevices makes it an ideal rock garden plant. The blossoms are clear yellow and so nearly regular that they suggest a yellow primula. Cuttings taken in May came into bloom in August.

There are three herbaceous perennials as well which should be included in our gardens. *M. Clevelandii* grows on rather arid ridges, has showy yellow flowers, and gummy foliage with a not too agreeable odor. *M. cardinalis* with magnificent scarlet flowers likes to grow with its feet in the water, and it has done very well for me with its container set in the edge of my fish pool. *M. guttatus*, too, likes a very wet soil. The flowers of this one are yellow dotted with maroon, and two plants in my yard made lovely mounds of color about two feet high. When they began to look seedy, I cut them back to the larger branches, and again they became covered with flowers. After this blooming, they were cut back nearly to the ground and are now sending out laterals which are rooting at every node. I shall have an abundance of plants for next season without bothering with cuttings al-

though the species roots quickly in water.

Perhaps, more of these native Monkey-flowers would be planted in our gardens if we could get them more readily from the dealers. The nurseryman would gladly carry them if they had calls for them. So, every time we visit a nursery, let us ask to see the stock of native Monkey-flowers, and in a short time, we will find them available at every nursery instead of from just a few as at present.

## Cacti for the Amateur

By Scott E. Haselton

Abbey San Encino Press,  
Pasadena, Calif.

Popular ed. \$1.00; Regular ed. \$1.50

Here is the ideal gift for that garden minded friend who has a particular or casual interest in the cactus family. Mr. Haselton, as editor of the Cactus Journal for the past 10 years, has seen the need for a helpful book that will answer all of the questions so often asked by the beginner. The answers are here by word and picture, for this is a complete guide with 150 illustrations and 110 cacti shown in color.

In his letter to me Mr. Haselton says: "The purpose of the book is to stimulate interest in the fascinating hobby of growing cacti so that this group of plants will retain the popularity which it justly deserves." It does that and more too, for I think all of us gardeners in the Southwest find interest in this fantastic group of plants, and want to know more about them. All the information you want is here: "Building a Collection," "General Culture," "Propagation," "Growing Cacti Indoors" and a number of other interesting chapters, 142 pages in all, easily read and not too technical.

For that friend who presents a gift problem this Christmas I suggest this book. And it is my guess the next time you see the recipient he (or she) will be either trying his luck at raising some seedlings or taking a hurried trip over to the desert to study some of the weird forms that he formerly casually passed by. T.McM.

# Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

**Question:** I have a new place where, I am told, the land is frostless. I want to plant potatoes here this winter and would like to know when they should be planted. What variety is best?—J. K. L.

**Answer:** Potato growers along the coast, where the soil is light and warm, are getting in their seed now. In locations where frost is occasionally experienced planting will be delayed until February and March. Winter-grown potatoes may be expected to mature in from 110 to 130 days, but if spring-planted the maturity date is considerably less. As to varieties, there are two usually planted in this county, British Queen and White Rose. The former is preferred for winter planting and the latter for spring planting.

**Question:** Last year I tried planting a little celery for home use, more as an experiment than anything else, but had lots of trouble with large, dark-colored worms that came out of the ground to feed on the plants. I was afraid to try poisons on the celery so lost most of my plants. I think I would like to try again if I knew how to handle these worms. Can you give me any information about them and how to get rid of them?—F. D. G.

**Answer:** Cut worms live in the ground, as you have discovered, and emerge at night to feed. When the plants get large enough they work their way down the centers and feed there until their larval development is completed.

It is not safe to use poisons on celery after the plants are a few inches high and for cut worms recourse must be had to poisons scattered on the ground around the plants, beginning when they are quite small in order to kill the worms before they work their way down into the plants.

A poisoned bran mash is the standard remedy for cutworms and the formula for this, in small quantities, is as follows: mix together

well four ounces of paris green (or 5 ounces of barium fluosilicate), 1 pint of blackstrap molasses and 1 gallon of water. Grind or chop fine 1 large or 2 small lemons (or oranges) including the rinds, and add to the liquid. Then slowly pour this over 6 pounds of bran and stir thoroughly until an even mixture is secured. The amount of water to use will vary somewhat according to the coarseness of the bran but an effort should be made to prepare a barely moist bait, rather than a wet one. As this mash may have to be used during several stages of growth of the plants, the one important thing to remember is, scatter it by hand on the ground around the base of the plants, never over or on the plants themselves. If you will do this carefully you need have no fear that the celery will be poisoned. In addition it may be said that the bait is much more effective against cutworms when scattered on the ground than elsewhere. Apply this mash in the early evening so that it may be in good condition when the worms come out of the ground to feed.

**Question:** According to directions, I sprayed some viburnum plants with a tobacco solution for thrips. Apparently all the insects were killed but a month later they were back as numerous as ever. Is there any spray or dust that will keep them down for longer than this? Will appreciate any information you can give me about this.—Mrs. T. W.

**Answer:** A tobacco spray or dust is still the best home remedy for thrips. The fact that you were able to free the plants of them at the first spraying indicates that the materials used were effective. However, in spraying for thrips it must not be overlooked that at least two sprays or dusts must be given at from two to three weeks apart. The reason for this is that thrips' eggs are usually laid inside the leaf sur-

face and are not affected by ordinary control measures. It requires, therefore, a second treatment to kill the young thrips that hatch from the eggs after the first treatment is given. Your plants were re-infested, undoubtedly, by the young thrips that were in the egg stage when you first sprayed. Another possibility is that these insects were also on plants near the viburnum and worked over to the latter after the spray was given. When you spray again, spray also any plants nearby that may act as hosts of the thrips.

**Question:** I am growing tomatoes and the green tomatoes are solid and smooth but as soon as they begin to ripen they dry rot in the center of the tomato. Can you tell me the cause?—Mrs. G.

**Answer:** This may possibly be a manifestation of the so-called blossom end rot although generally this disease can readily be observed on the outside of the fruit. The injury is always at the blossom end of the fruit and the spot may be merely a speck or it may involve half or even more of the tomato depending on the time the fruit first begins to show symptoms of decay. As the injury increases in size the flesh shrinks so that the affected blossom end is flattened. It is said that sometimes the outward symptoms of the disease may be almost entirely suppressed while the inner tissues near the blossom end are wholly discolored and collapsed. As previously stated this may, or may not, be the trouble you refer to but inasmuch as it certainly does not usually act in the manner described by you the writer would be very glad of samples if the trouble continues. Samples can be sent to the Agricultural Office in the Court House.

**Question:** Please advise if kelp can be used as a fertilizer with benefit. I have access to some and would like to use it if advisable. I have known of its being used in other places.—D. G. S.

**Answer:** Kelp is a very low grade fertilizer although it does contain some very valuable fertilizing constituents. Its chief drawback is that it contains so much salt that



its continued use without drainage will seriously injure your soil. This is particularly important in localities where the salt content of the soil is naturally high, as along the coast. The amount of potash in kelp is relatively high also, so that, when used in quantity, the balancing effects of other elements as phosphorus and nitrogen are necessary. Kelp should never be used at all in locations where drainage is not good and where there is not an abundance of pure water available to wash out excess salt as it accumulates. Even then it is very doubtful if it has sufficient value to warrant its use. For this and other reasons, as previously outlined, fertilizer experts recommend against it.

**Question:** Two years ago I planted a sapote seed and it has grown until now it is about six feet high. It does not make any side branches, however, but grows up straight. Should the top be cut off? How soon before the tree will bear?—Mrs. K.

**Answer:** In order to properly branch out sapotes should be topped when they are three or four feet high. This will induce the formation of lateral branches. When these laterals have grown to a length of 18 inches or two feet, they should have the terminal bud removed also to induce further branching. Unless this is done, the tree may reach a height of 10 or 12 feet before branching. This would naturally not be desirable. It is not too late to cut your seedling back to four feet or so and allow it to branch out properly below that point. Three or four well-spread laterals will be sufficient. Remove all others that may try to sprout.

As to bearing age, it may be said that sapotes are somewhat slow to begin fruiting. This is particularly true of seedlings, some of which do not bear until seven or eight years of age. Budded trees, if the buds have been taken from trees of known early bearing habit, will come into bearing much earlier. There is nothing to do in the case of a seedling tree but to wait, or else bud it over, using buds from early-bearing trees.

## Shall I Plant Limes?

**Question:** I have in mind planting 25 or 50 lime trees. What varieties are the best? How much fruit do lime trees bear annually? What is the fruiting season and is there a good market for the fruit?—C.A.I.

**Answer:** About three-quarters of the plantings in California are of the Bearss variety, a seedless type of the so-called Tahiti lime. The other one-quarter are Mexicans, a small, seedy variety. Up until a comparatively recent period the only lime known in the west was the Mexican, this lime being imported in very large quantities from Mexico. As the Bearss seedless becomes better known, it will undoubtedly grow in favor with dealers and users. There will always be a consistent demand for the Mexican type, however. The larger plantings of Bearss in California over the Mexican reflects the belief that the former will pay better than the latter.

As to yields of limes, the plantings in California are not yet old enough to furnish any very authentic figures as to a consistent yield one year with another. Presumably the Bearss seedless will yield more per tree and per acre than the Mexican. Dr. J. E. Coit reports that some full-grown Bearss trees in southern California yield up to 200 pounds per tree and Mexicans under nearly similar conditions about one-third less. Dr. Coit also states that in California the Bearss bears about three-fourths of its crop from September through December and the balance in March and April. The Mexican bears throughout the year with the heaviest crop in spring and summer.

Up to the present time there has been a fairly good market for limes, but recent investigations by experts indicate that competition is increasing rapidly. Florida has four or five times as many trees as California and her acreage is increasing very rapidly. From Cuba and the West Indies large quantities enter the United States annually and Mexican imports still comprise nearly four-fifths of all the limes used in

the United States. Most of the imports, of course, go to the middle western and eastern states. California production of limes would have to be used largely at home and in nearby states, probably, unless a very large increase in general demand is created. Even then, California would still suffer from Mexican competition.

## Mistletoe

**Question:** Please answer the following question in your column: "Is it unlawful to remove mistletoe from trees?"—W. H. D.

**Answer:** From one's own trees or from the trees of others by permission, certainly not. Mistletoe, is of course, a parasite and as such is injurious to trees. Generally those who own mistletoe-infested trees are glad to get rid of the parasite, but occasionally one may be found who wants it preserved for commercial purposes, such as for sale at Christmas time. On public lands there could be no possible objection, apparently, to the collection or removal of mistletoe and on private lands only as above indicated. Mistletoe, although a plant, does not come within the scope of the prohibitory state and county laws referring to the collection or destruction of native plants.

You may have noticed that there are two types of mistletoe commonly found here, that on cottonwoods and other trees in the river or valley bottoms and that on pine trees. The latter is undoubtedly the more injurious of the two in that pines are not only more valuable than cottonwoods and take longer to grow, but also because the effects of mistletoe infestation are more serious to such trees. Although the only remedy is to cut out and remove infested branches, occasionally an owner does not want to do this because it mutilates the tree.

A directory from the State Department of Agriculture listed Special Publication No. 162, lists all the California Nurserymen and Florists selling plants. There are 188 in San Diego County alone.

## HOLIDAY FRUIT RIPENED NOT BY SUN, BUT PETROLEUM

The golden bananas and oranges, the bright tomatoes and other fruits from our warmer climes that will adorn the holiday table probably were not colored and ripened by the sun, but by petroleum, reports the American Petroleum Institute.

Much of the fruit served in American homes must be picked while still green and unripe, so that it can be shipped without spoilage. But unless some method of continuing the ripening process is used for the green fruit after it has been picked, it may come to the table with unattractive coloration and inferior taste qualities.

After many years of research it was found that ethylene, a gas produced as a by-product in petroleum cracking, is an effective agent for the treatment of fruit so that it will ripen and color on its way to market. Now immense quantities of fruits raised in the warmer states are treated with this remarkable substitute for sunshine. Only a small concentration of the ethylene gas—about two per cent—is required. Before being shipped, the green, hard fruit is placed in a room and exposed to the action of the ethylene.

By enabling shippers to offer firm, ripe, and tasty fruits of attractive color, the use of ethylene has expanded the markets for such edibles enormously, thereby bringing annually millions of dollars of additional revenue to the farmers of California, Florida, and other states. And the petroleum industry, by providing a substitute for sunshine in the ripening of fruit, contributes equally to the comfort and joy of the holiday feast.

## HEMEROCALLIS (DAY LILY)

Have you been looking for a free blooming perennial to include in a shrub group to brighten it up? Then consider the day lily. It fits in perfectly with a Spanish planting of flax, dracaena, yucca and tritoma and coming in shades of orange and yellow carries out the scheme of having only warm colors in this type of planting.

## BUDGETING FOR YOUR GARDEN

### By THE MASTER GARDENER

January for most folks is budget month. Don't forget the garden when planning your yearly budget.

And the garden catalogs pouring in are one of your best aids in making garden plans. The seedsman spends much time and money in the preparation of his catalog. He has made every effort to bring to you the newest developments in the gardening field—the latest improved strains of flowers and vegetables; the newest implements to lighten the task of preparing your soil, applying plant food and cultivating the growing plants; complete balanced plant foods, odorless, economical and easy to apply, that assure healthy vigorous growth of plants; the newest all-purpose insecticides and fungicides . . . all of these the seedsman has listed and described for you between the magic pages of his book.

Whether we like it or not, the world changes constantly, and if we are going to be successful in any occupation or hobby, we must constantly study new developments and trends, and take advantage of all of them.

Don't just turn the pages of your catalog hurriedly, and make the same old purchases—"because you bought it last year." Of course the products you found entirely satisfactory you will want to repeat, but do a little adventuring, too. You know the old proverb, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained"—well, it applies to gardening, too.

## BLISTER RUST SWEEPS SOUTHWARD

The extended threat of a destructive forest scourge deep within California mountain areas was made known by foresters recently. Officials of the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine are openly alarmed by the discovery of sugar pine blister rust infection centers near Cascade Feather Falls in the Feather River region of the Sierra Nevada.

The disclosure substantiated opinions that the deadly rust is

making a steady drive southward through forest lands of high commercial and recreational value in the Coast Range, Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Indications are that the sugar pine forests of the popular Lake Tahoe region may also be infected with the rust.

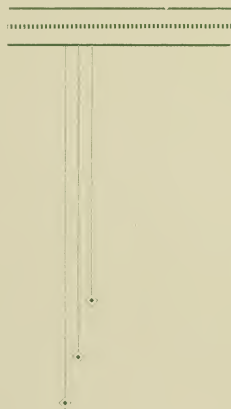
The disease was first found in California in 1936 near the Oregon boundary in Klamath National Forest. In July of this year blister rust was discovered in the vicinity of Mt. Lassen. During the past few days the disease was traced even farther south into Plumas National Forest, one of the major sugar pine reserve areas in the country.

As explained by Federal investigators, blister rust attacks and kills sugar pine trees after undergoing an intermediate stage of development on leaves of currant and gooseberry bushes. Disease spores are disseminated by wind to the beautiful and valuable sugar pines where the parasitic growth infects the trees. Spores from the diseased pines in turn infect more currant and gooseberry bushes to continue the life cycle of rust.

Spreading in this manner, the insidious blight may destroy whole regions of five-needle pines in a few years, say foresters. In the Pacific Northwest the rust is reported to have infected much of the white pine timber resources. The disease is capable of crippling industry and recreational enjoyment in many sections.

If attacked in time the spread of the forest disease may be checked and controlled by removing currant and gooseberry bushes from the forest foliage. Since 1933 a concerted drive has been made by blister rust crews in an effort to stem the southward advance into California. During the past five months 3000 men have battled blister rust in forested areas of the State. About one-quarter of the control work has been completed. Foresters have recently expressed fear of extensive losses of sugar pine if control measures cannot be speeded up during the next few years.

# San Diego Floral Association



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